

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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In re Patent Application of:  
Ze LI et al.

Application No.: 10/564,378

Confirmation No.: 7828

Filed: (Int'l) July 14, 2003

Art Unit: 1637

For: METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR  
DETECTING SARS VIRUS AND OTHER  
INFECTIOUS AGENTS

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Examiner: Stephanie K. Mummert

**REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION AND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

MS RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Madam:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

This Preliminary Amendment accompanies a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) for the above-referenced application. A final Office Action was mailed on March 5, 2009 ("the OA"), for which a response was due on June 5, 2009. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for a one month extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to July 6, 2009 (July 5, 2009 falls on a Sunday). Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 17 of this paper.